

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

1        19. (Currently Amended) Use of [the] a recombinant DNA molecule [according to claim  
2        6] comprising a promintron sequence of the rolA gene from *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* as in SEQ  
3        ID NO. 1, or of DNA sequences comprising said promintron sequence, or of functional  
4        homologous or portion thereof, to induce the expression of a DNA coding sequence, in  
5        recombinant bacteria during exponential, post-exponential and stationary phase of growth, and in  
6        bacteroids within root nodules, said coding DNA sequence being under the control of said  
7         promintron sequence, said recombinant DNA molecule being covalently linked to the 3' end of  
8        said promintron sequence, a DNA coding sequence, said recombinant DNA molecule being either  
9        harboured by prokaryotic episomal elements, or integrated in a bacterial genome to significantly  
10      increase the plant biomass production.

1        20. (Original) Use of the recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 19 wherein said  
2        statistically significant increase of the plant biomass production is of at least 10%.

21. (Cancelled)

1        22. (New) Use of a recombinant DNA molecule comprising a promintron sequence of the  
2        rolA gene from *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* as in SEQ ID NO. 1, or of a DNA coding sequence, or  
3        functional homologous or portion thereof, and covalently linked to the 3' end of said promintron  
4        sequence, a DNA coding sequence, said recombinant DNA molecule being either harboured by  
5        prokaryotic episomal elements, or integrated in a bacterial genome to significantly increase the

6 plant biomass production.